

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08598 081629Z

46

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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SCA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 PA-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SAM-01 DHA-02 /077 W
----- 091385

O 081450Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5177

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LE, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF COLONEL MORGAN ABDUCTION

1. SUMMARY. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, MISSION SUPPLEMENTS SEPTELS ONSTATEMENTS AND ACTIONS OF LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS AND GROUPS RE MORGAN CASE WITH JULY 8 LOCAL PRESS REPORTS. "DAILY STAR" EXAMINES POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN "REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ACTION ORGANIZATION" AND ANM OR PFLP AND REPORTS PLO DISPLEASURE OVER ABDUCTION. "AL-MUHARRIR" REPORTS LEBANESE AUTHORITIES HAVE ADVISED AMEMBASSY THAT KIDNAPPERS' MAIN DEMAND SHOULD BE FULFILLED. "AL-ANWAR" FANTASIZES EDITORIALY ABOUT REASONS FOR MORGAN'S PRESENCE IN LEBANON. "AS-SAFIR" SEES LIKELIHOOD OF POSITIVE OUTCOME TO MORGAN CASE, BUT ALLEGES THAT 24 CIA MEN HAVE ARRIVED TO ASSIST IN SEARCH FOR MORGAN. "BEIRUT" SIMILARLY CLAIMS THAT 12 CIA MEN HAVE ARRIVED AND GOES ONE BETTER TO CLAIM THAT ALL CIA AGENTS PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO BEIRUT HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED IN LAST TWO DAYS BECAUSE MORGAN HAS REVEALED THEIR IDENTITIES. "ASH-SHA'B" BANNERS
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08598 081629Z

U.S. OFFICIAL'S DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION AS QUOTE VERY

DELICATE UNQUOTE AS U.S. QUOTE THREAT UNQUOTE AGAINST LEBANON.
MANY PAPERS PICK UP ERRONEOUS AFP REPORT THAT FEAREY TASK FORCE
IS WORKING OUT OF AMEMBASSY BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR": QUOTE WELL-INFORMED PALESTINIAN
SOURCE SAID THAT REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST WORK ORGANIZATION...IS
KNOWN REMANT GROUP OF NOW DORMANT ARAB NATIONALIST MOVEMENT,
WHICH ... FORMED REGIONAL PARTIES FOR EACH ARAB COUNTRY, AND
PFLP FOR THE PALESTINIANS.... OWING TO CONNECTIONS WITH PFLP,
PLO HAS BEGUN NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH PFLP FOR DELIVERANCE OF
MISSING AMERICAN COLONEL, SOURCE SAID.... HOWEVER, OTHER
PALESTINIAN CIRCLES BELIEVE THAT ORGANIZATION IS TOTALLY NEW....
OTHER OBSERVERS BELIEVE NAME IS FICTITIOUS.... THE WELL-
INFORMED PALESTINIAN SOURCE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS IN INTERESTS OF
RESISTANCE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH LEBANESE. BEGIN INNER
QUOTE THIS KIND OF OPERATION REFLECTS HORRIBLY ON PLO AND
IS NOT WORTH DAMAGE INCURRED TO RELATIONS HERE AND OUTSIDE.
PUBLICITY IS JUST NOT WORTH IT, END INNER QUOTE SOURCE
SAID.... SOURCE CONTINUED THAT PLO WOULD BE DOING THEIR UTMOST TO
GET COL. MORGAN BACK WITHIN DEADLINE OF 72 HOURS SET BY
ABDUCTORS UNQUOTE.

3. LEADING PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR": QUOTE AMEMBASSY STAYED IN
CONTACT WITH LEBANESE AUTHORITIES ALL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO
STUDY CONDITIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION. SENIOR
OFFICIAL MENTIONED THAT DEMANDS ARE FULFILLABLE BEGIN INNER
QUOTE AND IN FACT TWO OF THEM HAVE BEEN FULFILLED -- PUBLICATION
OF LETTER IN WASHINGTON... AND LEBANESE SECURITY ORGANS'
SUSPENSION OF PURSUIT OF PERPETRATORS OF OPERATION.... END
INNER QUOTE. LEBANESE AUTHORITIES HAVE, VIA CONTACTS THEY HAVE
HAD WITH AMEMBASSY, ADVISED FULFILLMENT OF THIRD DEMAND....
WELL-INFORMED POLITICAL SOURCES BELIEVE THAT, IN SPITE OF
INSIGNIFICANCE OF ORGANIZATION'S DEMANDS, THEIR FULFILLMENT
WILL NOT BE EASY, FOR TO DO SO WOULD CREATE DANGEROUS
PRECEDENT THAT COULD IN FUTURE ENCOURAGE OTHER INDIVIDUALS
AND ORGANIZATIONS TO CARRY OUT SIMILAR OPERATIONS OF MORE SIGNIF-
ICANT AND DANGEROUS SORT. THESE SOURCES EXPECT THIS ISSUE TO
UPSET LEBANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS, IN ADDITION TO BEING NEW
GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEM.... THE INFORMED SOURCES MADE IT
CLEAR THAT HANDLING OF MORGAN SUBJECT DEPENDS ON NATURE OF
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08598 081629Z

MISSION FOR WHICH AMERICAN OFFICER WAS PRESENT IN LEBANON
UNQUOTE.

4. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" EDITORIALY: QUOTE THERE
IS STORY THAT KIDNAPPED AMERICAN COLONEL ERNEST MORGAN DID
NOT ARRIVE IN BEIRUT SUNDAY, JUNE 29, BUT TEN DAYS BEFORE....
WHAT WAS HE DOING IN BEIRUT, THIS MAN COMING FROM MEETING
OF CENTO IN KARACHI? IS HIS FUNCTION AS HEAD OF PLANNING

IN AMERICAN AID MISSION IN ANKARA HIS REAL FUNCTION OR COVER FOR HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITY....? INFORMATION ON NATURE AND LOCATION OF HIS WORK IS STILL CONTRADICTORY. DID HE WORK IN LAOS WITH AMBASSADOR GODLEY? IS HE EXPERT IN CIVIL WARS THAT AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE PERFECTED IN LAOS....? SOME PEOPLE IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN QUESTIONS TO POINT OF ASKING: DID HE COME IN ORDER TO BE KIDNAPPED? IS THIS STORY NOT THE BEST OF COVERS FOR HIM TO IMPART IMPORTANT INFORMATION WANTED BY EASTERN (BLOC) QUARTER? BEYOND THIS THERE ARE THOSE WHO SPEAK OF CONINCIDENCE OF HIS PRESENCE ON 29 JUNE, DAY ON WHICH AMERICAN TIME MAGAZINE SAID THAT AGENTS OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE HAD CARRIED OUT SEVERAL OPERATIONS IN BEIRUT AGAINST RESISTANCE UNQUOTE.

5. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR": QUOTE CASE OF KIDNAPPED AMERICAN COLONEL YESTERDAY ACQUIRED NEW RAMIFICATIONS THAT MADE IT MORE SENSITIVE AND DELICATE.... INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT LIKELIHOOD OF SOLVING CASE OF COLONEL MORGAN POSITIVELY IS NOT SLIGHT AND THAT NEXT 24 HOURS MAY LEAD TO IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS RESPECT, AND SOME OPTIMISTS SAY THAT MORGAN MAY BE RETURNED TODAY. THIS INFORMATION INDICATES THAT IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF KIDNAPPERS AND THEIR HIDING PLACE.... CONFIRMED INFORMATION "AS-SAFIR" HAS OBTAINED SAYS THAT 24 CIA MEN HAVE ARRIVED IN BEIRUT SINCE NEWS OF MORGAN'S ABDUCTION WAS ANNOUNCED. SOME OF THEM HAVE ARRIVED AS TOURISTS AND SOME AS DIPLOMATS AND BUSINESSMEN IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN SEARCH FOR MORGAN UNQUOTE.

6. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT": QUOTE TWELVE-MAN GROUP OF AMERICAN OFFICERS SPECIALIZING IN INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AND CODES ARRIVED YESTERDAY IN BEIRUT FROM NEW YORK TO ASSIST LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES IN TASK OF SEARCHING FOR AMERICAN COLONEL MORGAN.... ON OTHER HAND, ALL AGENTS OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE IN BEIRUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 08598 081629Z

WERE TRANSFERRED AND EVACUATED IN LAST TWO DAYS, AS WERE NUMBER OF PROMINENT OFFICERS OF AMEMBASSY ENGAGED IN AFFAIRS OF POLITICAL PLANNING AND INFORMATION. THIS OCCURRED ON BASIS OF INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT MORGAN HAD, DURING ORGANIZATION'S INTERROGATION, REVEALED NAMES OF CIA AGENTS, AMEMBASSY BEIRUT'S PLANS, AND DANGEROUS SECRET CONCERNING PLAN PREPARED BY CIA TO ASSASSINATE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE LEADERS. UNQUOTE.

7. FYI, PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" BANNERS QUOTE FORD EXPLOITS MORGAN'S ABDUCTION AND THREATENS LEBANON UNQUOTE AND REPORTS THAT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN BEIRUT INTERPRET PHRASE QUOTE VERY DELICATE UNQUOTE USED BY U.S. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON TO DESCRIBE SITUATION AS QUOTE CONTAINING OFFICIAL TONE OF THREATS BY FORD AGAINST LEBANON UNQUOTE.

8. FYI ALSO, MOST LOCAL PAPERS REPEAT AFP ERROR
AND QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT FEAREY
TASK FORCE IS WORKING OUT AMEMBASSY BEIRUT INSTEAD OF STATE
DEPARTMENT.

9. EMBASSY HAS BEEN DISMISSING CANARDS RE CIA MEN
IN PARAS 5 AND 6 ABOVE, NOTING IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES
ABOUT PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS THAT ONLY MORE THAN ROUTINE
ARRVAL OR DEPARTURE HAS BEEN THAT OF ONE PERSONAL
ACQUAINTANCE OF COL. MORGAN FROM ANKARA.
GODLEY

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